

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
November 14, 2012

Budget Committee Members Present

Eileen Latimer, Chairman  
Mary-Louise Woolsey, Vice-Chairman  
Ben Moore, Selectman Representative  
Ginny Bridle, School Board Representative  
Robert Ladd, Precinct Representative  
Victor DeMarco  
Joe Grzybowski  
Brian Lapham  
Mark McFarlin  
Michael Plouffe  
Richard Reniere  
Diandra Sanphy

Excused

Pat Collins  
Richard Desrosiers  
Sandra Nickerson

Chairman Latimer called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members of the Committee gave self-introductions.

**Adoption of Minutes**

**Moved** by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the Minutes of November 8, 2012.

**Vote:** 8 yes, 0 no, 3 abstentions (Bridle, Ladd, Reniere). Motion passed.

Ms. Woolsey said information came in this afternoon that the New Hampshire Supreme Court has ruled unanimously against the LGC and they have ordered that Don Mitchell's orders to proceed will stand. The \$20 million that they had promised to be distributed will be held in abeyance because it is a too small an amount and there is a possibility that the LGC might be put into receivership.

Mr. DeMarco said Dave Lang is to be commended. Mr. Lang pursued this issue on his own and everyone owes him a great deal of thanks.

Ms. Sanphy noted that the tax rate has been set at \$17.77 which is 16 cents less than last year.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chairman Latimer welcomed Chris Silver, Chief of the Hampton Fire Department.

**Moved** by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$3,293,078 as the total for Fire Department.

Chief Silver said this budget represents a total increase over last year of 7.11%. Most of the increase is due to contractual raises.

Ms. Woolsey asked about the Fire Inspector position. Chief Silver said that position is still unfilled. Ms. Woolsey asked if the Chief had plans to fill it. Chief Silver said he wants to get his staff of response personnel up before he would do that.

Chief Silver said most increases under Fire Suppression were wage related. There was some increase in various equipment areas.

Mr. Lapham asked if anything is reimbursed for Seafood Festival work. Chief Silver said they are reimbursed for a portion. Mr. Reniere asked if there was reimbursement for storms. Chief Silver said not unless a certain threshold is reached.

Ms. Sanphy expressed concern about the size of staff and asked the Chief if he had a concern. Chief Silver replied that his biggest concern is that it is becoming increasingly difficult to manage on a day to day basis because there is no consistency. Ms. Sanphy asked if the Chief would want to pursue more in his budget. Chief Silver said he would have liked to see increases in personnel, but it is too much at this time. That is something to work on in the future.

Chairman Latimer said she has heard a lot of complaints about fire inspection being very slow. There is now a surge in building and there will be more need for inspections.

Ms. Woolsey asked Mr. Moore what the position of the Board of Selectmen was on filling the Fire Inspector position. Mr. Moore said they felt that the Chief and his FPO were handling it well without this position being filled. Chief Silver said the BOS did not discuss this because he had decided to fill an EMS position rather than the Fire Inspector position.

Mr. McFarlin asked for an explanation on the percentage of raises as they appear to be high (7%). Chief Silver explained that no raises had been given for six years so this equates to about 1% per year.

Chairman Latimer asked how much it would cost to add the Fire Inspector position. Chief Silver said including everything it would be approximately \$100,000.

Chairman Latimer asked the Chief if he were given an opportunity to come back to the Committee after adding more to his budget would he choose to do so. Chief Silver replied that he is not prepared to do that. There is not enough time.

Mr. Grzybowski asked if the Fire Inspector position could be part-time. Chief Silver said it is covered by collective bargaining and must be full-time.

Mr. DeMarco said he felt there was nothing wrong with taxes going up 1 or 2% since the tax rate has been flat for the past several years. This could alleviate some of these problems.

Chief Silver discussed Fire Prevention. There was a change in part-time wages due to the hire of a part-time secretary for 30 hours per week. There had been a previous secretary who worked 20 hours per week.

Chief Silver said there were no changes under Training. Communications contains only wage related contractual changes. There were no changes under Repair Services and Fire Stations and Buildings.

Mr. Reniere asked when the fire stations would be up and running. Chief Silver said their goal is fall of 2013.

Chairman Latimer asked for a vote on the motion.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$1,000 for Civil Defense.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Moore, seconded by Ms. Woolsey, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$475,600 for Hydrants.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Rolling Stock was then discussed. Ms. Woolsey thanked Chief Silver for his good work in this area.

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Chairman Latimer thanked Chief Silver for his fine presentation.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 20, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at which time General Government – Part 2 will be addressed.

**Adjournment**

**Moved** by Ms Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Moore, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice  
Secretary